

## Community resources

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*courage is contagious*

## Viewing cable 08ATHENS1347, GREECE/IRAN: FM BAKOYANNIS INSTRUCTS THAT ADVISORY

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

### Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

### Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#08ATHENS1347**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
<a href="#">08ATHENS1347</a>	2008-09-22 11:33	2011-08-30 01:44	SECRET	<a href="#">Embassy Athens</a>

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.tanea.gr>

VZCZCXYZ0000  
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHHT #1347 2661133  
ZNY SSSSS ZZH (CCY ADX0DC4354 WSC2778 611)  
O 221133Z SEP 08  
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2529  
INFO RUCNIRA/IRAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHXD/MOSCOW POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHZG/NATO EU COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0394

S E C R E T ATHENS 001347

SIPDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (GARBLE TEXT)  
E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/18/2018  
TAGS: [GR](#) [IS](#) [ECON](#) [EFIN](#) [FWWT](#) [ETRD](#) [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [KNNP](#) [EUN](#)  
SUBJECT: GREECE/IRAN: FM BAKOYANNIS INSTRUCTS THAT ADVISORY  
BE ISSUED ON IRISL  
SERVICE/ERROR MESSAGE

REF: A. SECSTATE 94723  
      B. ATHENS 1328

Classified By: DCM DEBORAH MCCARTHY. REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D).

¶1. (S) DepPolCouns discussed ref A points on Greek interactions with the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL) with MFA A6 Directorate for Middle East Affairs deputy head Giorgos Ayfantis. He later informed us that FM Bakoyannis had agreed to the requests and that an advisory would be issued.

¶2. (S) DCM raised the demarche points with Deputy Minister for Mercantile Marine and Aegean Issues Panos Kammenos. When told that FM Bakoyannis had agreed to issue an advisory, Kammenos was supportive. He subsequently told us that his ministry had issued the advisory to the shippers.

¶3. (S) DCM also discussed the matter with the Israeli Ambassador, and we provided him with a copy of the points. The Ambassador thanked us for the information and said he would immediately take the matter up with the Greeks. DepEconCouns provided the points as well to Ioannis Sidiropoulos, Secretary General of the Ministry of Economy and Finance; Panagiotis homopoulos, Deputy Governor of the Bank of Greece (BG); and Panagiotis Kyriakopoulos, Director of Monetary Policy of Banks of the Bank of Greece.

¶4. (S) COMMENT: The GOG is supportive of our efforts with regard to IISL and has issued the advisory as we requested. At the same time, both Foreign Ministry and Mercantile Marine interlocutors warned that Greek shippers did not always adhere to warnings issued by the GOG. The MFA's Ayfantis explained that the Greek shipping business was very cynical about government actions. Some shippers would try to bargain about the scope of the warnings, while others would simply try to circumvent, particularly those who had already benefited from business with the Iranians and had a tradition of working outside the law. He cited the case of shippers who quietly but effectively worked with -- and made fortunes from -- the Rhodesians when that regime was under heavy international pressure. Deputy Minister of Mercantile Marine Kammenos similarly drew our attention to peculiarities of the Greek shipping market that complicated the application of sanctions. He noted that the older generation of shippers were for the most part cooperative with the government on priority cases, though usually more so when matters were handled orally and not put into writing. The younger generation was even harder to deal with. Kammenos nevertheless promised to do what he could to assist. Embassy will pursue the issue further with shipping contacts.

SPECKHARD